

Message Text

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S E C R E T USUN 3234

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FROM LOS DEL

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GW
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FRG DEPMIN FOR ECON AND
THE WITH FRG LOS DEL., AUGUST 13, 1976

1. SUMMARY: DURING BILATERAL MEETING WITH FRG DEPMIN FOR
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ACTING HEAD OF FRG LOS DEL, THE SECRETARY
NOTED VERY CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN US AND FRG LOS DELS. FRG
REP EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN SET BACK,
OWING TO TACTICS OF THE GROUP OF 77. THE SECRETARY NOTED THE
PROBLEM OF FINDING SUITABLE MEANS TO FINANCE THE ENTERPRISE
(FOR DEEP SEA MINING). HE SUGGESTED CLOSE COORDINATION

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BETWEEN FRG AND US ON ANY PROPOSALS WHICH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

MIGHT TABLE DURING THE COURSE OF THE CONFERENCE. THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THE DIFFERENCE, IN OUR VIEW, BETWEEN PROBLEMS OF PRINCIPLE SUCH AS NATIONAL QUOTAS AND RIGHTS OF ACCESS AS OPPOSED TO PROBLEMS OF WORKABILITY. THE FRG DEL POINTED OUT THAT IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO AGREE AMONG DEVELOPED COUNTRIES ON A SYSTEM FOR FINANCING THE ENTERPRISE DURING THE PRESENT SESSION OF THE LOS CONFERENCE. THE SECRETARY NOTED THAT MIN GENSCHER PLANS TO VISIT THE LOS CONFERENCE. HE HOPED THAT GENSCHER WOULD STOP IN WASHINGTON ON THAT TRIP. HE NOTED HIS OWN INTENTION TO RETURN TO NEW YORK THE 24TH OR 25TH BUT NO LATER THAN AUGUST 30. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SECRETARY HELD BILATERAL MEETING AT USUN WITH FRG DEP FINMIN, DETLER C. ROHWEDDER, AND ACTING HEAD OF FRG LOS DEL, AMBASSADOR KARL KNOCKE, AT 12:30, AUGUST 13. AMB. VINCENT LEARSON, HEAD OF US LOS DEL AND DEPUTY HEAD OF DEL BERNARD OXMAN ACCOMPANIED THE SECRETARY.

3. THE SECRETARY NOTED VERY CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE US AND FRG ON LOS MATTERS. MINISTER ROHWEDDER AGREED BUT NOTED HIS DESIRE TO RAISE SEVERAL POINTS. THE FRG LOS DEL FEARS THAT "WE HAVE BEEN THROWN ALL THE WAY BACK TO CARACAS" BUT NOTED THAT AMBASSADOR LEARSON DID NOT FULLY SHARE THIS ASSESSMENT.

4. AMBASSADOR KNOCKE EXPLAINED THE FRG VIEW THAT THE RADICALS HERE AT THE CONFERENCE, ALGERIA AND INDIA, DO NOT LIKE THE PARALLEL SYSTEM FOR SEABED EXPLOITATION. THE RADICALS ARGUE THAT THE MINERALS ARE THE "COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND" AND WISH TO EXCLUDE PRIVATE FIRMS FROM EXPLOITATION OF THESE RESOURCES. THE FRG CANNOT ACCEPT THIS VIEW.

5. THE SECRETARY AGREED THAT WE CANNOT ACCEPT SUCH A VIEW AND THAT THIS IS AN ISSUE OF PRINCIPLE ON WHICH WE CANNOT COMPROMISE.

6. MINISTER ROHWEDDER RAISED THE QUESTION OF FINANCING THE ENTERPRISE. HE NOTED THAT WE MAY COME TO A POINT
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WITHIN THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS SESSION WHEN WE MIGHT HAVE TO ACCEPT SOME SYSTEM FOR FINANCING OR ELSE RISK LOSING THE OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN AN OTHERWISE SATISFACTORY TREATY.

7. THE SECRETARY NOTED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE ON WHICH WE CANNOT COMPROMISE AND ISSUES OF WORKABILITY IN WHICH THERE MAY BE SOME ROOM FOR

ACCOMMODATION. WHILE HE DOUBTED THAT WORKABILITY WAS MEXICO'S OBJECTIVE IN ITS POSITION ON FINANCING, HE STATED THAT WE COULD LISTEN TO WELL-MEANT PROPOSALS INTENDED TO LEAD TOWARD A WORKABLE ENTERPRISE. HE NOTED FURTHER THAT THE US AND THE FRG WOULD HAVE TO COORDINATE ANY SUCH POSITION ON FINANCING, AND EXPLAINED THAT THE US IS NOT READY TO TABLE ANY SUCH FORMAL PROPOSAL. THE SECRETARY PROPOSED BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN ADVANCE OF TABLING SUCH A PROPOSAL.

8. THE FRG DELEGATION RAISED THE POINT OF "PROVISIONAL APPLICATION" OF THE TREATY. MR. OXMAN NOTED THAT WHILE WE FAVOR "PROVISIONAL APPLICATION" (APPLICATION OF THE TREATY PRIOR TO DEPOSIT OF INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION), WE DO NOT INSIST ON APPLICATION OF ONLY PART OF THE TREATY. THE FRG DEL AGREED.

9. THE FRG DELEGATION EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN OVER THE "CONSENT REGIME" FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND NOTED THAT A CONSENT REGIME IS BUILT INTO THE RSNT. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT WE WILL NOT ACCEPT THE COMMITTEE III TEXT PIECEMEAL BUT WILL CONSIDER THE ENTIRE TEXT AS A WHOLE. THE FRG DEL AGREED.

10. THE SECRETARY INDICATED HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT MINISTER GENSCHER WOULD ATTEND THE LOS CONFERENCE AT SOME TIME DURING THE SESSION. HE EXPRESSED HIS HOPE TO ATTEND ON THE 24TH OR 25TH BUT NO LATER THAN THE 30 OF AUGUST. HE ASKED THAT MINISTER GENSCHER STOP IN WASHINGTON DURING HIS VISIT.

11. THE FRG DEL EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OUR PRACTICE OF INFORMING THEM OF THE DECISIONS OF THE GROUP OF
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FIVE. THE SECRETARY AGREED THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE THIS PRACTICE.
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